

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 29, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-28 were pending, and rejected claims 1-28. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-18 and 21-23 have been amended, claims 5, 9-14, 19, 20 and 24-28 have been canceled, new claims 29 and 30 have been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-18 and 21-23 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

No New Issues Raised - Amendment Entry Is Proper

The amendments to the independent claims raise no new issues as the features were found in cancelled claim 5 and in independent claim 22 previously presented. The new claims are dependent claims. As no new issues are raised, no further search is needed. As a result, entry and consideration of this amendment is proper and requested.

The Rejection

The Office Action rejects all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over various combinations of Oliver and Nakaoka with Oliver being the primary reference.

Oliver, in particular, the part of noted by the Examiner discusses a PERT Chart. A PERT chart shows a schedule of events or tasks (start dates, completion dates) and their relationship in graphical form. In particular a PERT chart shows a schedule that has been decided or in a certain sense fixed or that have been previously been determined.

In contrast, as recited in the independent claims, the present invention is concerned with obtaining offered or proposed dates for completing tasks or jobs ("completion date offer indicating a completion date" - claim 1, claim 15, 17, 21 and previously presented claim 22). In particular, the completion date proposals or offers are from those who have been assigned the jobs ("a receiver of a group who has been assigned to the job" - claim 1). These job offers are made by those doing the job based on receiving a message that includes a space for entering the offer ("an entry space for entering a completion date offer" - claims 1, 15, 17, 21 and previously presented claim 22). These offers or proposals for completing the jobs are displayed for a manager to review ("display the completion date offers of the receivers" - claims 1, 15, 17, 21 and 22). In particular, the display is "to display in a table form the title of the message, names of +a plurality of the receivers, the completion dates entered into the entry spaces" - previously presented claim 22.

Oliver does not teach or suggest such a system or method. And, in a certain sense, the present invention could be used to gather the information that is put into the PERT chart of Oliver.

It is submitted that the invention of the claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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